

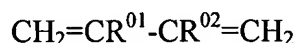
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A photothermographic material comprising a support and an image-forming layer disposed on the support, wherein the image-forming layer comprises a photosensitive silver halide, a non-photosensitive organic silver salt, a reducing agent and a binder, and the binder comprises a polymer formed by copolymerization of monomers including 10 to 70% by mass of a monomer represented by the following formula (M):

Formula (M)



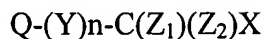
wherein R⁰¹ represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a halogen atom; ~~atom, or a cyano group;~~ and R⁰² represents an alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, or a halogen atom; ~~atom, or a cyano group;~~ wherein R⁰¹ and R⁰² are never both simultaneously a hydrogen atom; and

the polymer is dispersed in the binder as latex in the image-forming layer.

2. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the image-forming layer contains an antifoggant formed from an organic polyhalogen compound.

3. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 2, wherein the organic polyhalogen compound is represented by the following formula (H):

Formula (H)



wherein Q represents an alkyl group, an aryl group, or a heterocyclic group; Y represents a divalent linking group; n represents an integer of 0 or 1; Z₁ and Z₂ represent a halogen atom, respectively; and X represents a hydrogen atom or an electron-withdrawing group.

4. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 2, wherein the amount of the antifoggant is 0.01 to 0.5 g/m².

5. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 3, wherein the amount of the antifoggant is 0.01 to 0.5 g/m².

6. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the polymer has a glass-transition temperature of -30 to 70°C.

7. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 2, wherein the polymer has a glass-transition temperature of -30 to 70°C.

8. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 3, wherein the polymer has a glass-transition temperature of -30 to 70°C.

9. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 4, wherein the polymer has a glass-transition temperature of -30 to 70°C.

10. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is a polymer latex synthesized by an emulsion polymerization.

11. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 2, wherein the polymer is a polymer latex synthesized by an emulsion polymerization.

12. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 3, wherein the polymer is a polymer latex synthesized by an emulsion polymerization.

13. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein R⁰¹ is a hydrogen atom and R⁰² is a methyl group in the formula (M).

14. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 2, wherein R⁰¹ is a hydrogen atom and R⁰² is a methyl group in the formula (M).

15. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 3, wherein R^{01} is a hydrogen atom and R^{02} is a methyl group in the formula (M).

16. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is copolymerized with monomers at 1 to 20% by mass, said monomers having acid groups.

17. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 2, wherein the polymer is copolymerized with monomers at 1 to 20% by mass, said monomers having acid groups.

18. **(Original)** A photothermographic material according to claim 3, wherein the polymer is copolymerized with monomers at 1 to 20% by mass, said monomers having acid groups.